

## Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 IO-10

AID-05 /062 W

----- 045091

R 251356Z JUNE 75

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4978

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MASERU 671

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, LT

SUBJECT: MOITSE REMOVED FROM CABINET

REF: MASERU 565

1. IT WAS ANNOUNCED ON RADIO LESOTHO JUNE 24 THAT COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER JOEL MOITSE'S APPOINTMENT TERMINATED. THIS MAY SET IN MOTION GOVERNMENT CHANGES CONTEMPLATED REFTEL.

2. ANNOUNCEMENT SAID ONLY THAT MOITSE'S APPOINTMENT TERMINATED BY QUEEN MAMOHATO, REGENT, ON RECOMMENDATION OF PRIME MINISTER LEABUA JONATHAN. IT PERHAPS NOT COINCIDENTAL THAT MOITSE'S REMOVAL OCCURRED ONLY HOURS BEFORE RETURN OF KING MOSHOESHOE FROM STUDIES AT OXFORD. MOITSE IS FRIEND OF KING AND AT LEAST ONE SOURCE HAS REPORTED THAT KING DESIRED HIS INCLUSION IN CABINET. ANNOUNCEMENT MADE NO MENTION OF NEW POSITION FOR MOITSE OR HIS SUCCESSOR.

3. MOITSE'S DEPARTURE FROM CABINET PREDICTED AND HOPED FOR BY MANY AS HE CREATED CONSIDERABLE CONTROVERSY DURING HIS NEAR YEAR AS COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER. HIS APPOINTMENT FIRST OFFENDED MANY BECAUSE HE CIVIL SERVANT, NOT POLITICIAN, CONFIDENTIAL

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AND NON-MOSOTHO AS WELL. HE WAS PROBABLY GREATEST RADICAL IN CABINET (ALTHOUGH IN COMPETITION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER KOTSOKOANE AND AGRICULTURE MINISTER KAKHETLA, TWO OTHER CIVIL SERVICE APPOINTEES). HE WENT ON TO CAUSE CONSIDERABLE CONCERN AMONG MORE CONSERVATIVE BASOTHO AND OTHERS WHO FEARED HIS STIFF LOCALIZATION MEASURES WOULD CUT OFF NEEDED OUTSIDE, PARTICULARLY SOUTH AFRICAN, INVESTMENT. HE ALSO UNHELPFULLY INTERFERED IN AFFAIRS OF UBLS ROMA CAMPUS, OF WHICH HE PREVIOUSLY IN CHARGE, TO APPARENT CONSTERNATION NOT ONLY OF SENIOR GOL OFFICIALS BUT ALSO AUTHORITIES IN SWAZILAND AND BOTSWANA. UNDERSTAND LAST STRA WAS UNAUTHORIZED SIGNING OF AGREEMENT WITH SOUTH AFRICAN FIRM TO ESTABLISH WHOLESALE OPERATION IN LESOTHO. PRIME MINISTER AND KING HAD REPORTEDLY FAVORED ANOTHER SOUTH AFRICAN FIRM. BOLEN

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NNN

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CABINET, PERSONNEL SEPARATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 25 JUN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975MASERU00671  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** D750220-0474  
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**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 MASERU 565  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 21 AUG 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <21 AUG 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <09 DEC 2003 by KelleyW0>  
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**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> wfs 971107  
**Subject:** MOITSE REMOVED FROM CABINET  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PINT, LT, (MOITSE, JOEL)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006